

In the Claims:

1. In a distributed network, a method for automatically synchronizing each of  
5 a set of distributed multimedia assets, comprising:

(a) modifying a particular one of the set of distributed multimedia assets;  
and

(b) automatically synchronizing others of the set of distributed multimedia  
10 assets based upon (a).

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

(c) generating an update edit list corresponding to (a).  
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3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the automatically synchronizing  
comprises:

(d) forwarding the update edit list to the others of the set of distributed  
20 multimedia assets; and

(e) modifying each of the others of the set of distributed multimedia assets  
based upon the forwarded update edit list.

25 4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

(f) generating a resultant multimedia asset corresponding to (a), wherein  
the resultant multimedia asset is formed of a digital negative of the particular one of the  
set of multimedia assets and a corresponding edit list, wherein the edit list represents all  
30 modifications made to the digital negative.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the automatically synchronizing comprises:

5 (g) replacing each of the others of the set of distributed multimedia assets with the resultant multimedia asset.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the multimedia asset is a digital image.

10 7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the digital image is one of a plurality of associated digital images.

15 8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the plurality of associated digital images take the form of an album.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the edit list is one of a number of edit lists included in a catalog file.

20 10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein each of the number of edit lists included in the catalog file are associated with a particular multimedia asset.

25 11. In a distributed network, an apparatus for automatically synchronizing each of a set of distributed multimedia assets, comprising:

a first means for modifying a particular one of the set of distributed multimedia assets; and

a second means for automatically synchronizing others of the set of distributed multimedia assets based upon coupled to the first means.

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12. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a third means for generating an update edit list corresponding to coupled  
5 to the first means based upon the modifying.

13. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the automatically synchronizing comprises:

10 a fourth means coupled to the third means for forwarding the update edit list to the others of the set of distributed multimedia assets; and

a fifth means coupled to the fourth means for modifying each of the others  
of the set of distributed multimedia assets based upon the forwarded update edit list.

15 14. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a sixth means coupled to the first means for generating a resultant image  
20 corresponding to the modified multimedia asset wherein the resultant image is formed of a digital negative of the particular one of the set of multimedia assets and a corresponding full edit list, wherein the full edit list represents all modifications made to the digital negative.

25 15. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the automatically synchronizing comprises:

a seventh means coupled to the first means for replacing each of the others  
of the set of distributed multimedia assets with the resultant image.

30 16. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein the multimedia asset is a digital image.

17. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the digital image is one of a plurality of associated digital images.

18. In a distributed network, an apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the plurality of associated digital images take the form of an album.

19. A method of modifying a first multimedia asset to form a second multimedia asset, comprising:

applying a multimedia asset processing command to the first multimedia asset to form the second multimedia asset;

uniquely linking the first multimedia asset to the second multimedia asset using the multimedia asset processing command such that the first multimedia asset is derivable solely from the second multimedia asset;

determining if the first multimedia asset is associated with an edit list that includes the multimedia asset processing command;

retrieving the edit list;

processing the first multimedia asset using the multimedia asset processing command included in the edit list; and

outputting the processed first multimedia asset in the form of the second multimedia asset.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the edit list is one of a plurality of associated edit lists that are included in a catalog file.